









American Cancer Society website changes

On the left are images from the American Cancer Society's [website](#) as it appeared on Nov. 19. The images on the right were captured Dec. 10.



Talcum Powder and Cancer







What is talcum powder?





Talcum powder is made from talc, a mineral made up mainly of the elements magnesium, silicon, and oxygen. As a powder, it absorbs moisture well and helps cut down on friction, making it useful for keeping skin dry and helping to prevent rashes. It is widely used in cosmetic products such as baby powder and adult body and facial powders, as well as in a number of other consumer products.

In its natural form, some talc contains asbestos, a substance known to cause cancers in and around the lungs when inhaled (see [Asbestos](#)). All talcum products used in homes in the United States have been asbestos-free since the 1970s.

Until recently, the American Cancer Society reported on its website that consumer talc products in the United States have been asbestos-free for decades.



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In 1976, the Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrances Association (CTFA), which is the trade association representing the cosmetic and personal care products industry, issued voluntary guidelines stating that all talc used in cosmetic products in the United States should be free from detectable amounts of asbestos according to their standards.

After inquiries from Reuters, the organization edited the page to say that industry guidelines state that cosmetic talc should be free from detectable asbestos, according to industry standards.







Does talcum powder cause cancer?







When talking about whether or not talcum powder is linked to cancer, it is important to distinguish between talc that contains asbestos and talc that is asbestos-free. Talc that has asbestos is generally accepted as being able to cause cancer if it is inhaled. This type of talc is not used in modern consumer products. The evidence about asbestos-free talc, which is still widely used, is less clear.

The organization also removed this sentence, which assured consumers that modern consumer talc products are free of asbestos.



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